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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

I am writing in regards to Broadband Competition vs. Petition for Forbearance of USTelecom-The Broadband Association

I live in San Francisco and work for the Public University in Administration. I work from home 2-3 days a week and depend on my internet quality and speed in order to do my work. I chose Sonic - a competitive provider to ATT - because I can get fast, reliable internet service. With Sonic I get a fiber network, never throttled, @ 1000 mpbs download AND upload....yes, you read that correctly, a hot 1K. I had ATT before and only got 12mps (the only speed available from ATT in my area if you only want internet service) and they throttled my internet speed to less than 5mbs at times and it was virtually impossible to get my work done, let alone watch a streaming movie without constant buffering.

San Francisco is a 7x7 city, and if every internet provider were required to install their "own" lines the city would have a net of wires across it - which local government (thankfully) will not allow. Not only would it be wasteful of material and area resources to require every internet company to run their own lines, but it would drive up the cost of quality, reliable internet services for many areas. There are many people, myself included that find ATT internet unreliable, extremely slow, and frustrating to deal with because of complex contracts and poor customer service. Another point is that I only use free antenna TV, so if I wanted to get a faster internet from ATT or Xfinity I would have to enter into a cryptic contract, pay exorbitant prices and pay for services that I do not need or use - and as perks, I would get horrible customer service and have to constantly worry about what they were doing with my personal information.

It is also important to me that internet providers remain competitive, and one provider does not have a monopoly. In urban areas such as San Francisco, it is impossible to lay a system of lines for every competitive provider. ATT has historic lines - that does not mean they should have a monopoly (on the materials and space), they should be required to let competitors use the lines - within reason - in order to do business, and ATT does already get PAID for this - every competitor that uses ATT's lines has an Leasing Agreement with ATT. Also, I go with Sonic because they respect my privacy and continue to conduct their business under the rules of Net Neutrality, even though the recent Administration has repealed it. Quality, reliable internet with good customer

service, that supports local economy and provides clear contracts should not be stifled because they "did not get here first", if that was the case the USA would be devoid of small businesses, local utilities and our economy would be one non-competitive, homogeneous monopoly after the other and how boring and EXPENSIVE would that be? Very! As a public servant, I make the average state wage for my area, and it would be a struggle to afford internet service if there is a price hike, it is already really expensive.

Please consider what I have taken the time to write, and deny AT&T and USTelecom's "Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks".

Please continue to support broadband competition and affordable options for ALL people.

Respectfully Yours

Laurie Kara